

2-26-04

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**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,

Provides for continued examination of a utility or plant

Application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number: 09/819,574

Filing Date: March 28, 2001

First Named Inventor: Dieter Blase

Group Art Unit: 1723

Examiner Name: Krishnan S. Menon

Attorney Docket Number: 608.0008USU

CUSTOMER NO.: 27623

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 153 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (August 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. _____ Previously submitted
- i. _____ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on _____ (any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. _____ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed filed on _____
- iii. _____ Other _____
- b. XXX Enclosed
- i. XXX Amendment/Reply
- ii. _____ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. _____ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and PTO-1449
- iv. _____ Other _____

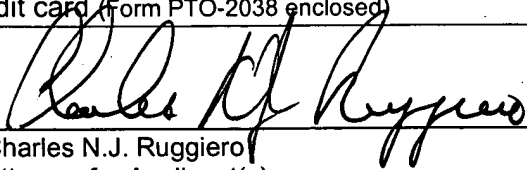
2. Miscellaneous

- a. _____ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
- b. _____ Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. XXX The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **01-0467**.
- i. XXX RCE fee (\$770.00) required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e)
- ii. XXX Extension of Time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. _____ Other _____
- b. XXX Check in the amount of \$ 1,190.00 enclosed
- c. _____ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

February 25, 2004
Date of Signature


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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Certificate No. **EV 383028104 US**, service under 37 CFR §1.10 and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 25, 2004.

Mary R. Charles
(Typed name of person mailing paper)


(Signature of person mailing paper)